

I/WE CLAIM

1. A gas cooking appliance employing a combination radiant/convection heating system comprising:
 - an oven cavity including top, bottom and opposing side portions, said bottom portion including a central opening;
 - a glass panel positioned in the central opening;
 - a plurality of air inlet vents opening into the oven cavity;
 - a gas burner positioned below the glass panel and defining a central zone, said gas burner being adapted to radiant heat through the glass panel into the oven cavity;
 - a combustion airflow fan assembly for delivering a forced combustion airflow to the gas burner; and
 - a convection blower assembly including a fan located within the central zone, said convection blower assembly being adapted to generate a convective air flow which passes the gas burner and flows through the air inlet vents into the oven cavity, wherein the gas burner produces heat for both radiant and convective heating of the oven cavity, with said gas burner being visible, at least when activated, when looking into the oven cavity and through the glass panel.
2. A gas cooking appliance employing a combination radiant/convection heating system comprising:
 - an oven cavity including top, bottom and opposing side portions;
 - a plurality of air inlet vents opening into the oven cavity;
 - a gas burner positioned below the bottom portion and defining a central zone, said gas burner being adapted to radiant heat into the oven cavity;

a convection blower assembly including a fan located within the central zone, said convection blower assembly being adapted to generate a convective air flow which passes the gas burner and flows through the air inlet vents into the oven cavity, wherein the gas burner produces heat for both radiant and convective heating of the oven cavity.

3. The gas cooking appliance according to claim 2, further comprising:

a central opening provided in the bottom portion of the oven cavity; and

a glass panel positioned in the central opening, said gas burner being visible, at least when activated, when looking into the oven cavity and through the glass panel.

4. The gas cooking appliance according to claim 3, wherein the bottom portion is formed with a central ledge portion removably supporting the glass panel.

5. The gas cooking appliance according to claim 3, wherein the central opening is at least 12 inches (30.5 cm) square.

6. The gas cooking appliance according to claim 2, wherein the gas burner takes the form of a ring.

7. The gas cooking appliance according to claim 2, further comprising: a combustion airflow fan assembly for delivering a forced combustion airflow to the gas burner.

8. The gas cooking appliance according to claim 7, wherein the combustion airflow fan assembly is spaced rearward of the gas burner.

9. The gas cooking appliance according to claim 2, wherein the bottom portion of the oven cavity includes a peripheral edge portion, said plurality of air inlet vents being provided in and at least partially extending about the peripheral edge portion.

10. The gas cooking appliance according to claim 2, further comprising: a cooktop including a plurality of surface gas burner elements.

11. A gas cooking appliance employing a combination radiant/convection heating system comprising:

- an oven cavity including top, bottom and opposing side portions, said bottom portion including a central opening;

- a glass panel positioned in the central opening;

- a plurality of air inlet vents opening into the oven cavity;

- a gas burner positioned below the glass panel, said gas burner being adapted to radiant heat through the glass panel into the oven cavity;
- and

- a convection blower assembly including a fan adapted to generate a convective air flow which passes the gas burner and flows through the air inlet vents into the oven cavity, wherein the gas burner produces heat for both radiant and convective heating of the oven cavity, with said gas burner being visible, at least when activated, when looking into the oven cavity and through the glass panel.

12. The gas cooking appliance according to claim 11, wherein the bottom portion is formed with a central ledge portion removably supporting the glass panel.
13. The gas cooking appliance according to claim 11, wherein the bottom portion of the oven cavity includes a peripheral edge portion, said plurality of air inlet vents being provided in and at least partially extending about the peripheral edge portion.
14. The gas cooking appliance according to claim 11, wherein the gas burner takes the form of a ring having a central zone, said fan being located within the central zone.
15. The gas cooking appliance according to claim 11, further comprising: a combustion airflow fan assembly for delivering a forced combustion airflow to the gas burner.
16. The gas cooking appliance according to claim 15, wherein the combustion airflow fan assembly is spaced rearward of the gas burner.
17. The gas cooking appliance according to claim 11, wherein the central opening is at least 12 inches (30.5 cm) square.
18. The gas cooking appliance according to claim 11, further comprising: a cooktop including a plurality of surface gas burner elements.

19. A method of heating an oven cavity through both radiant and convection heating comprising:

activating a gas burner located below a glass panel provided across a bottom portion of the oven cavity to cause heat to be radiated through the glass panel and into the oven cavity;

operating a convection blower assembly positioned within a central portion of the gas burner to cause a convective air stream to flow across and be heated by heat produced by the gas burner; and

directing the convective air stream through a plurality of air inlet vents arranged about the glass panel.

20. The method of claim 19, further comprising: viewing operation of the gas burner by looking into the oven cavity and through the glass panel.

21. The method of claim 19, further comprising: introducing the convective air stream upwardly and centrally into the oven cavity.

22. The method of claim 19, further comprising: directing a forced combustion airflow to the gas burner.